

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The present Amendment incorporates allowed dependent claims 9 and 32 into their respective independent claims, thus putting the application in condition for allowance.

In this Amendment claims 1, 26, 33 and 37 are amended, no claims are added, and claims 9 and 32 are canceled (claims 2-3, 11, 13-25 and 35 were previously canceled). As a result, claims 1, 4-8, 10, 12, 26-31, 33-34 and 36-40 remain pending in the application.

In the final Office Action of July 21, 2006, claims 1, 4-8, 10, 26-31, 34, 36 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 6,498,955 (McCarthy) further in view of U.S. Patent 6,084,516 (Yasushi). Claims 9, 32-33 and 37-38 include allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103 Rejections

The §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 26-31, 34, 36 and 39-40 in view of McCarthy and Yasushi is obviated in view of the present amendments which incorporate allowed subject matter into each independent claim.

Deposit Account Authorization / Provisional Time Extension Petition

It is believed that no extension of time or fees are required for this paper. However, to the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0439 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. However, in the event there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's representative, Scott Richardson, by telephone at (571) 748-4765 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Charles Richardson

Reg. No. 43,436

McGrath, Geissler, Olds & Richardson, PLLC
P.O. Box 7085
Alexandria, VA 22307

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